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**STATE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS EASED THE MEDICARE PART D  
IMPLEMENTATION FOR MANY NEVADANS**  
-Part D Implementation complete in Nevada-

June 29, 2006 (*Carson City, Nev.*) – Today at the Capitol Complex, administration from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recognized state staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly during the recent Medicare Part D implementation.

This federal initiative required all Medicaid recipients to participate in the new Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. In addition, Nevada Senior Rx members needed to enroll in Part D plans in order to take advantage of new state benefits approved by the Legislature.

Nearly 200 state staff and volunteers with the Senior Rx program, State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Division for Aging Services dedicated approximately a year – and hundreds of staff hours – to assisting seniors and other Medicaid recipients with new plan enrollments.

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To date, more than 237,000 Nevadans have access to the prescription medication they need to maintain healthy, independent lives. Laurie Olson, Senior Rx Program Manager, said, “There is no doubt that the patience, guidance and persistence of our staff and volunteers made a positive impact during this transition.”

Division for Aging Services Administrator Carol Sala added, “Throughout the implementation process, our call centers were staffed with live people who were able to reassure our seniors and guide them through enrollment; this was a valuable resource for those callers who might have otherwise been intimidated or confused by the new Medicare policy.”

State staff and volunteers were recognized with personal thank-you letters from DHHS Director Mike Willden, as well as a presentation of certificates of appreciation at the Old Assembly Chambers in the Capitol Complex.

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services promotes the health and well-being of Nevadans through the delivery and facilitation of essential services to ensure that families are strengthened, public health is protected and individuals achieve their highest level of self-sufficiency. Under Director Michael J. Willden, each of the Department’s agencies is committed to being accessible and responsive to the public it serves.

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